

Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 213806

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNGA, RQ, BU

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO IN THE COMMITTEE OF 24

REF: SOFIA 1733

WE APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORTS TO PRESENT OUR POSITION
ON PUERTO RICO TO TODOROV. WHILE WE DO NOT EXPECT
THE GOB TO CHANGE ITS POSITION ON THE VOTE FROM LAST
YEAR, IT MAY BE USEFUL TO MAINTAIN THE DIALOGUE ON PUERTO
RICO FOR FUTURE REFERENCE. ACCORDINGLY, AT THE NEXT
APPROPRIATE OCCASION, YOU MAY MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS
IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS AND REMARKS MADE BY TODOROV:

-- WE SHARE BULGARIA'S BELIEF IN THE IMPORTANCE OF SELF-
DETERMINATION FOR PUERTO RICO, WHICH IT ATTAINED
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO. THE PRESIDENT'S JULY 25
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PROCLAMATION TO THE PEOPLE OF PUERTO RICO IS A
REAFFIRMATION OF LONG-STANDING US POLICY THAT PUERTO
RICANS HAVE THE RIGHT TO DETERMINE THEIR POLITICAL
STATUS. THE PRESIDENT IS WILLING TO SUPPORT WHATEVER
FUTURE STATUS THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE MAY CHOOSE, AS WAS
MADE CLEAR IN HIS PROCLAMATION.

-- THE QUESTION OF UN OBSERVERS AT A PUERTO RICAN STATUS REFERENDUM IS PREMATURE. HOWEVER, IF THE GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO SHOULD ASK THAT THE UN OBSERVE A REFERENDUM IN PUERTO RICO, WE FORESEE NO REASON WHY OUR FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD OPPOSE THIS.

-- THE "MOOD OF CONGRESS" IS A REFLECTION OF THE MOOD OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. SEVERAL RECENT POLLS HAVE INDICATED THAT A MAJORITY OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WOULD SUPPORT WHATEVER STATUS IS PREFERRED BY THE PUERTO RICAN PEOPLE - STATEHOOD, INDEPENDENCE, OR A CONTINUATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH STATUS.

-- THE US ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THIS ISSUE, AND BULGARIA SHOULD CONSIDER THAT ITS VOTE IN THE COMMITTEE WILL BE A FACTOR IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.

CHRISTOPHER

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